

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 26 June 2022

EI3BK SK

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Jeremiah O'Sullivan, EI3BK from Bishopstown, Co. Cork. Jerry passed away peacefully on Saturday morning at Cork University Hospital. We offer our deepest sympathies to his family and friends. We'll observe a moment of silence in memory of Jerry, EI3BK. May he rest in peace.

2022 IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day

The 2022 IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day takes place over the weekend of Saturday the 2nd and Sunday the 3rd of July, from 1400 UTC Saturday until 1400 UTC Sunday. Last year after following consultation with testers, to provide greater flexibility this field day was arranged to run as 5 separate contests - one on each band 50 MHz (6m), 70 MHz (4m), 144 MHz (2m), 432 MHz (70cm) and 1296 MHz (23cm). There is an Open 24-hour and a 6-hour Restricted option for each band, stations may enter one or more bands or all five bands. Also, entries on different bands from a station may be mixed between Open (24-hour) and Restricted (6-hour) sections. The deadline for submitting logs is Sunday, July 17th. For more details and a full list of rules please see www.irts.ie/rules

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC

The June meeting of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC will take place tomorrow night, Monday the 27th of June 2022 at 8.00 p.m. sharp at The Sweep Bar, Adamstown, Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford (Eircode X91 H588). New members or anyone interested in learning more about amateur radio or the group are as always very welcome to attend. For anyone that wishes to find out more about the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and their activities you can drop them an email to [southeasternarg /at/ gmail.com](mailto:southeasternarg/at/gmail.com) or please feel free to go along to any of their meetings. You can check their website www.searg.ie and you can also join them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter.

No Transmission at Grimeston

There will be no transmission from the mechanical 200 kiloWatt transmitter SAQ at Grimston, Sweden on 17 kHz VLF for this year's Alexanderson Day on the 3rd of July. The team running the transmitter twice a year cite problems obtaining spare parts for the 98 year transmitter, currently undergoing maintenance work. The Radio Station is again open to visitors, who can witness two start-ups of the large rotor, however no RF will be radiated from SAQ's toploaded vertical.

Repeaters in Norway and Switzerland

On the 14th of June, NRRL's Executive Board approved a new plan, prepared by their repeater manager Håvard, LB9RE, for the tones used for opening relay stations in Norway. All repeater managers are asked to implement the new plan as soon as possible, no later than the end of 2023. A nationwide use of a 1750 Hz tone-burst has eventually been replaced by CTCSS or subtones. Relay stations with a built-in logic often do not have 1750 Hz tone decoders and the choice most often falls on the use of CTCSS and other subtones. Since there are many subtones to choose from, it has been tempting to choose their own, or a separate one for each region of the country. The new frequency plan for the entire country allows for either a tone-burst, or CTCSS and DTMF for both analogue and digital modes, using just two frequencies each, or a combination of these. Visitors to Norway can get detailed information about this change on www.nrnl.no

The Repeater Coordinators of the Union of Swiss Shortwave Amateurs, USKA has also published a new list and an updated online map of their voice repeaters, making it easy to find coverage areas and information about talk group settings, and how to open the analogue repeaters. More information is on www.uska.ch, but also have a look at www.repeatermap.de for an zoom-able map for all of Europe.

EUHFC 2022 Contest canceled

Not long after the Slovenian Contest Club announced a new experimental QRP section in the European Championship contest, originally scheduled for the 6th of August, they had a change of mind and canceled the contest altogether. Robert Bajuk, S57AW, reports that the SCC Contest Committee has decided to cancel EUHFC 2022 due to the war in Ukraine. They do not see the point in competing for the title of European Champion without the presence of our Ukrainian friends, and in the absence of contest activity in most other EU countries. The Contest Committee says: "It was a difficult decision, who would have thought that we will ever need to even discuss these things, but we don't want to further separate amateur radio friends and hope for a better tomorrow. Hoping for peace, we will meet again in August next year in EUHFC

2023!

Voyager 1 & 2

Nasa has begun turning off the spacecraft Voyager's systems, signaling the beginning of the end of the probe's 50-year career. Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 were launched in 1977 and travelled to the edge of the solar system. 44 years into this journey, NASA must power down some of the probes' systems in order to keep them operating until 2030. The first Voyager craft has four remaining functioning instruments, while Voyager 2 has five, powered by converting decaying plutonium into electricity. This battery has had its output dropping by about four watts every year, requiring tough choices about what to switch off next. The final instruments Nasa will disable are likely to be the magnetometer and the plasma science instrument inside the body of the spacecraft. These are warmed by the excess heat of the computers. The other instruments are suspended on a 13 meter fiberglass boom, heating them requires more power. It takes a radio signal almost 22 hours to reach Voyager 1 and just over 18 for Voyager 2.

AMPR-Hamnet

The 44Net has been around since the 1980s, allowing amateur radio operators to experiment with internet routing, using public IP addresses in the 44-range, for free. This news bulletin has been sent via such connection in the ampr.org domain. The internet address space for amateur radio and experimenters is run by the non-profit foundation Amateur Radio Digital Communications. ARDC has started a public survey, trying to find out what, if anything, needs to be improvement in the running and usage of this valuable resource. They encourage a lively participation by all YLs, OM's and SWLs. Have a look at the start pages of www.ampr.org and the ARDC pages. Our Coordinator for the Irish part of the ampr.org address space is John, EI7IG. Stefan, EI4kU has started a thread on our irts.groups.io forum on the topic of TCP/IP high-speed networking.

The Propagation Horoscope

A California wildfire cut off power to the Solar Dynamics Observatory Data Center at Stanford University, making predictions somewhat less reliable. Last week's sunspot number increased to 125, up from 74 the previous week. The average daily solar flux rose from 124 to 140, expected to decrease towards around 110 for next week, as the currently active regions rotate out of view. New active regions are appearing on the

eastern limb, likely affecting next weekend's propagation. Geomagnetic conditions are calm. All factors combined means that the maximum usable frequency will remain well above 20 MHz, and we can expect good to excellent conditions on all higher bands. But keep in mind that the grey-line is late in the evenings, DX opening into the Americas will be well after 22:00 UTC. The night-time critical frequency will continue to give good NVIS on 7Mhz, day-time D-layer absorption will silence 80m and 60m until well into the evening. The magic 6m band will produce long distance DX openings in all directions helped by strong Sporadic-E, reaching peak ionization early in July.

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam@irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is Friday evening.

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